



CITY OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

*Office of the Mayor*

Thomas M. Menino

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 30, 2004

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## **Mayor Menino Urges Business Leaders to Join Volunteer Recruitment Effort for Boston's EITC Campaign**

The City of Boston's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) campaign is gearing up for another tax season and needs volunteers to assist in various aspects of the campaign. The EITC is a tax credit available to many low and moderate-income working families and individuals. The EITC brings more people out of poverty than any other federal program, including welfare. Eligible families can qualify for up to \$4,700 or more in federal and state money, but many workers are unaware of the EITC and therefore don't apply for it.

"I strongly urge Boston's business leaders to encourage their employees to donate their time and skills by volunteering for the EITC campaign. Thousands of Boston residents need our help and with as little as three or four hours a week, volunteers can put more money in the pockets and bank accounts of hard working people. And in today's tough economy, that money could help pay bills, buy food, or help a family invest in education," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino.

The Boston EITC campaign is a collaboration of non-profit and community-based organizations, foundations, the business community joining with city, state and federal government organizations to increase the participation in this important benefit. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provides free software and training to the volunteers who work in sites across the city.

Volunteers are needed to help the campaign with the following tasks:

- **Tax Preparation:** Prepare tax returns for clients at a neighborhood tax site. Tax preparers will receive free basic tax law and software training.
- **Intake Assessment:** Greet taxpayers at a neighborhood tax site and provide basic financial literacy information. Assist taxpayers in organizing required paperwork before they see a tax preparer. Intake assessors will receive free training.
- **Financial Counseling:** Provide instruction in financial literacy classes organized at community tax sites. Free training in financial literacy will be provided.

- **Information Technology:** Computer-savvy individuals can help tax preparation sites to troubleshoot any IT problems that arise.
- **Outreach:** Help with outreach in neighborhoods throughout the City of Boston to get the word out about the EITC and the campaign's free tax preparation sites.

Volunteers can expect to attend classroom training sessions in January 2005 as well as participate in some online tax law education. Each volunteer will be expected to dedicate three or four hours per week at one of 19 different tax preparation sites located throughout the city of Boston. Volunteers will put more than \$9 million dollars back into the pockets of Bostonians this tax season.

Those interested in volunteering can visit [www.cityofboston.gov/bra/eitc/volunteer.asp](http://www.cityofboston.gov/bra/eitc/volunteer.asp) for more detailed volunteering information and to sign up! For more information regarding the Boston EITC Campaign, log onto [www.bostontaxhelp.org](http://www.bostontaxhelp.org) or call the volunteer hotline at 617.918.5275.

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